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News Items

Telephone

Fifteen new *Natel C base stations* were put into operation and twelve additional national highway tunnels were connected to Natel C.

Teleinformatics

A *Packet Handler Interface* project has been operating since the middle of 1991 for providing the gateway between the two networks, *Telepac* and *Swissnet,* as well as the packet switching within Swissnet. On the basis of the *CCITT recommendation X.31 case A* (support of terminal equipment in the packet mode through an integrated services digital network, access to services of public packet switching networks), the *Northern Telecom* and *Ascom-Zelcom* firms have developed a software programme which was accepted by PTT in a test environment. The interworking with all three Swissnet central types employed in Switzerland (EWSD/Siemens, AXE10/Ascom-Hasler, 1240/Alcatel-STR) must thereby be guaranteed. As a *worlds first,* the primary rates interface 2.048 Mbit/s from Northern Telecom (producer of the Telepac switching equipment) with the new Packet Handler Interface Software according to European ETSI standards could for the first time be successfully set up in a multivendor environment. The operation of the Telepac—Swissnet (and vice versa) gateway is planned for the 1st of October. Thus connections between terminal equipment in the packet modus will be possible also within Swissnet.

Twenty-one digital *lease lines* (17×64 kbit/s, 1×384 kbit/s, 2×512 kbit/s, $1 \times$ T1) were set up by the Lease Line Control Centre (LCC).

A surgical operation was transmitted directly to Switzerland over the *Megacom Network* and *Video Conference* from Atlanta, GA, USA to a *special course for heart surgeons* at the University Hospital in *Geneva.* The course participants were able to ask questions directly to the operating surgeons.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

Transmitters for the *Citycall B radio paging system* were put into operation at eleven locations: *Adelboden, Eggersriet, Göschenen, Gotthard-Tunnel (N 2), Heiden, Kandersteg, Lenk, Montfaucon, Noirmont, Schönengrund* and *Villeret.*

A *carrier of the IDR type* (Intermediate Data Rate) was put into operation between Switzerland and *Japan* in the Intelsat Network with a transmission capacity of 2,048 kbit/s via the satellite 60° east. Thanks to this connection, up to 30 carriers at 64 kbit/s or 120 voice circuits can be operated between the Leuk and Kamyamaguchi earth stations.

The international *Lugano–Milan toll network microwave radio link* was put into operation with a transmission capacity of 140 Mbit/s. In addition the *Les Ordons–Bassecourt* radio relay link was set up to supply a Natel C base station with a transmission capacity of 4×2 Mbit/s. A temporary 2 Mbit/s radio link was put into operation in *Geneva* for approximately one year for a leaseline between Geneva-Montbrillant and the Pierre Fatio Street; a temporary radio link with a transmission capacity of 34 Mbit/s was set up in *Zurich* for a leaseline between the Hofwiesen Street and the Birch Street; a temporary radio relay connection with a capacity of 2 Mbit/s was put into operation in *Locarno* for approximately six months between the Morettina transit exchange and the observatory at Locarno-Monti.

Miscellaneous

The electronic booth switching installation with 20 connections was set up and put into operation at the international *Rado Swiss Open* Tennis Championship in *Gstaad* in the media centre for the press under the motto «Swiss Telecom PTT – Your best connection». Over 130 temporary subscriber lines were set up at this big sports event. In addition 30 Natel connections were put into operation as well as a radio network with 50 stations.

There are between *16* and *32 electronic apprentices in training* in each of the 17 regional telecommunications offices. A wide production and development potential is available for the PTT in three possible fields of specialisation – equipment design and installations, measuring and test as well as computer technology – which stretch from electromechanics over electrotechnology, electronics, microelectronics, SMD to the micro processor and micro computer technology as well as PC application (hardware and software areas). In 1991, approximately 320 electronic apprentices assumed 90 000 productive working hours for PTT internal and external customers.

The *Technical Committee 109* (cable television) of *Cenelec* met in *Brussels.* It is in charge of drawing up European standards (EN) for the television distribution networks. The committee prepared the consultation on the basis of the documents drawn up by the various working groups so that different publications on security, electromagnetic compatibility, passive and active components, head stations, glass fibers and distribution networks will be available in the spring of 1993.

The *Administrative Council of the International Telecommunications Union ITU* met in Geneva. It approved the report on the activities of the Union for 1991 and the budget for 1993. It examined the interim report of the group of experts created to study how to improve the use of radio frequency spectrum and how to simplify of the «Radio Regulations». It reviewed the development activities of the Union, the progress report on the implementation of the recommendations to ensure greater effectiveness as well as the introduction of direct remote access to the data banks of the Union.

The *sub group R3 (satellite broadcasting) of the European Broadcasting Union EBU* met in Oslo. Some of the themes dealt with were the high definition television (hybrid and digital), the results of the World Administrative Radio Conference WARC 92, the digital audio broadcasting DAB as well as the activity of other bodies working in this field (CEPT, CCIR, ETSI, Cenelec, CE, CEI, etc.).

A permanent exhibition *«Säntis – Nature and Technology»* was opened in the lower station of the Säntis cable car. The visitors are informed in a comprehensible manner about the history of the weather observation, the purpose of the Säntis PTT station as well as about the radio transmission technology.